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NOT A FIRST-CLASS CHOICE.

**Figuring as a Real Estate Ringster, Also in a**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The nomination of John F. Olmstead for District Commissioner is already meeting with great opposition, and the President is being urged to withdraw it. The President must have been ignorant of Olmstead's record and his reputation. John Sherman and Don Cameron were Olmstead's sponsors, as well as some of the heavy real estate interests of the District. The District Committee is in receipt of a large number of letters and protests against confirmation. It is understood that affidavits are being prepared

which set forth some of the main facts in Olmstead's record. He was a clerk in the real estate firm of Kilbourn, Latta & Co. These are the men who, with Shepherd, composed the famous real estate pool. Olmstead is now said to be largely interested in the tax certificates which are sold by the city to the taxpayers of the district. Olmstead was brought forward as a candidate for the appointment last spring, but his backers, to quiet opposition, withdrew his name. His real name was withdrawn. They were working, however, all through the fall, John Sherman, president of the city, and George C. Gorham, vice president, and those agent Olmstead is, was pressing the appointment, and his influence, through the city, was considerable. The city, however, who confidently expected that the appointment would be given to John M. Langston, a very much better man than Olmstead, secured Mahone's vote, his promise no longer binding. The city is now in the hands of George C. Gorham for Secretary of the Senate.

Olmstead's relations with the real estate pool are said to be somewhat complicated. During the investigation by the Glover Committee, in the Forty-fourth Congress, into the matter of the city's purchase of the real estate, it was learned that Olmstead was a trustee for Jay Cooke & Co., filed a bill in the Forty-fifth Congress, against Kilbourn, Latta & Co., Columbus Adams & Co., being a partner in Jay Cooke for \$10,000, caused copies of this bill to be sent to the city, and to the city clerk the bill or a copy, but it could not be found. The bill was very damaging to the real estate pool, and it is said that the city clerk, without authority, had abstracted it to prevent publicity.

On February 27, 1874, there is reported in THE SUN an account of a real estate transaction of Olmstead. He was the owner of one Hedden, he induced Hedden to sign a deed of conveyance, and insertion of the purchase money left blank.

old the property for \$389.25 more than he had accounted for. Walter Davidge began suit against Olmstead for the recovery of this money, and Olmstead settled by paying it over. There are other transactions in Olmstead's career that will be brought to the notice of the President and the District Committee.

day in attending to private affairs. In the afternoon Gen. and Col. Grant called at the Windsor to bid farewell to the Prince; and at 6½ o'clock his Highness and suite started by the Erie road for Niagara in the special car Morning Star. Mr. Oris Kai of the Yamato Trading Company, M. Takahasi, the Japanese Consul, and Mr. E. G. Storer, diplomatic attaché, saw the Prince off. The Chamberlain, M. Hayashi, told a New York reporter that the

**Could Stop Building a Railroad.**  
GALVESTON, Texas, Dec. 20.—A special to the *New* from Laredo says: "There is good authority for the report that work on the Mexican, Oriental and International railroad has been suspended for a season permanently extended. It was decided that the railroad should be built by the Mexican government."

tion from the Mexican Government contains a provision which absolutely forbids to Mexico all work done in case that the road should fail to be completed in conformity with the charter of the government specified in the contract. The Mexican Government has agreed and provided, further, that the Mexican Government shall be the supreme arbiter of the matter, should a force majeure occur, and that the Mexican Government to the extent that should work at any time later, shall be paid on account of any financial panic in the United States, the Mexican Government in its favor. Not succeeding in this, all work has been stopped.

**Receiver Pierson's Compensation Reduced**

ALBANY, Dec. 20.—Superintendent Fairman has decided that the compensation of Henry R. Pierson, receiver of the North American Life Insurance Company, shall be 3½ per cent. on the amount of cash assets

coming into the receiver's possession. The amount had been previously fixed by Superintendent Smyth at a percentage, but the Court of Appeal directed a rehearing of the case. This will make the compensation of Mr. Pearson \$25,000, instead of \$68,000, which he claimed before the Court of Appeal sent it back for rehearing.

**Mobbed by Decent People.**

A uniformed messenger boy was distributing illuminated advertising cards in Sixth avenue yesterday afternoon. When in the neighborhood of Twenty-

**A Thief That Mrs. Nathan Held**

**Disappearance of R. B. Coppins.**

Rufus B. Coppins, a truck owner on a large scale, has been missing from 325 West Twenty-first street since Tuesday. He had at least \$1,000 in his possession when he disappeared and it is quite probable that he has come to harm, as his absence is otherwise unaccountable.

**The Signal Office Prediction.**  
Snow and rain, warmer east to south winds,  
lower barometer.

**SPARKS FROM THE TELEGRAPH.**

Caballero has been re-elected President of Paraguay.  
The Delaware and Barint Canal was closed last night.

Two slight shocks of earthquake were felt at Panama on Tuesday.

Chauncey W. Huff, cashier of the Union Steamboat Co. of Buffalo, has been missing several days. His accounts appear to be all right.

Fifteen of the women injured by the explosion in the cartridge factory at Mont St. Sacrament, France, on Monday, have died. Others are expected to die.

Alfred Post, a conspicuous citizen of Newburgh, and for fifteen years President of the Highland National Bank, died yesterday morning, aged 70 years.

The Chicago Board of Trade, by a vote of 82 to 130, refused yesterday to repeal the rules providing penalties for violating the rules regarding commissions.

The charge of obtaining money under false pretences preferred against Mr. Whitley, member of the British Parliament for Peterborough, has been dismissed.

Battle Lindell and Frederica Peterson attempted to cross the river on the ice from Lake City to Stockholm, Wis. with a young man named Andrew Johnson.

W. Boutoux, President, and M. Feder, manager of the collapsed Union Generalist of Paris, were each sentenced to a two-year imprisonment, and to pay a fine of \$100 franc.

Hussein Moussa el-Akadi, Suleiman Daoud, and Said Saoudi will be tried by court martial in Alexandria tomorrow on charges of complicity in the massacre and incriminating books.

Lawrence Brooker, a watchman on the bridge at La Crosse, Wis., in attempting to hoist a locomotive on Thursday afternoon, was killed and a distance of 224 feet, breaking his neck.

Newman Randall Bell & Co., a Chicago Board of Trade member, was killed today morning. They were sent for a considerable time.

A quantity of worsted yarn and cloth stolen from the Washington Mills, Lawrence, was recovered yesterday. The supposed thief, who is in custody, claims to be the widow of Gen. Gonzales, of Cuban revolutionary fame.

The British steamer Regent from Cardiff left for New Orleans, was abandoned in a sinking condition in lat. 44 north, long 20 west. Her crew, numbering twenty-eight, and six stowaways, have landed at Falmouth.

Mr. Isaac Hedges, late President of the Mississippi Valley Live Stock Association, and for many years prominently identified with the live stock interests of the West, died at St. Louis on Tuesday, after a brief illness, at an advanced age.

The farm house of John Clark in Linn county, Kansas, was burned on Sunday night. Clark lost two of his children, and while he was searching for the third, the

The jury in the case of *Adams v. Johnson* returned a verdict, Nov. 10, for the murder of the son, having rendered a verdict of not guilty. The defendant's trial was held by adjournment from the 10th to the 11th, and was continued to the 12th.

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